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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mansfield Downtown Partnership: Annual Meeting June 11 *Partnership to Receive Grant from Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation*

June 9, 2014 – The Mansfield Downtown Partnership will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 11 at 6:00 pm at the Center for Hellenic Studies/Paideia (28 Dog Lane, Storrs).

During the meeting, Eileen Ossen, Executive Director of the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation, will present the Partnership with a check for \$190,650 for the stage pavilion on the new Town Square. The performance stage will be the most important element of the Town Square as it will allow the Partnership and others to attract quality performers and will significantly add to Storrs Center as a destination.

“The Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation strongly believes in community involvement and the arts. The Town Square will bring in many forms of the arts and also attract neighboring communities to the Town Square. We are happy to support the Mansfield Downtown Partnership,” said Ms. Ossen.

“We are very grateful to the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation for this generous gift,” remarked Cynthia van Zelm, Executive Director of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership. “The impact of the performance stage on the Town Square will be substantial. It will be the focal gathering point in Mansfield for art, music, puppet shows, films, festivals, and readings and will bring the arts to people from all walks of life, including children.”

The performance stage, which will accommodate a variety of theatrical performances to appeal to any audience, was designed by the Partnership’s landscape architecture firm Kent+Frost with input from many stakeholders including the Mansfield Advocates for Children, EO Smith High School, and the University of Connecticut School of Fine Arts.

With the funding now in place, the Partnership and the Town of Mansfield hope to have the pavilion completed by late September, in time for the Celebrate Mansfield Festival which will be Sunday, September 21 on the Town Square.

The Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation is dedicated to fulfilling dreams and achieving heights by enrichment of the mind, body and spirit through its support of cultural arts, education and healthcare issues.

For more information about the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, please visit www.mansfieldct.gov/downtownpartnership.